



United States Supreme Court Justice

Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993)

Thurgood Marshall was the great-grandson of an enslaved African and the son of a dining car waiter and a schoolteacher. He was the first African American justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He studied law at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.

Thurgood Marshall graduated first in his class from Howard in 1933, and he was drafted to help with the civil rights battles then being waged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He was the mastermind behind the litigation strategy that challenged racial oppression in education, housing, transportation, electoral politics, and criminal justice. In one of his most famous cases and victories, he represented Linda Brown in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954).

In 1967, President Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He served in this position until 1991. During his tenure, Justice Marshall was a strong advocate for equal protection of the law.